In addition, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is promoting Micropropagation Technology Parks (MTPs) for providing an interface between the research institutions and industry and Biotechnology Parks for women to provide opportunities for women entrepreneurs through the application of environment friendly biotechnologies. DBT has set up 2 MTPs, one at Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi and another at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. A Biotechnology Park for women has been set up by DBT at Chennai in collaboration with the State Government.

The Ministry of Information Technology is establishing Software Technology Parks (STPs) through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) all over the country. The main objective of the Software Technology Parks scheme is to boost the software exports from the country using high-speed data communication links. So far, 20 STPs including 19 International Gateways have been set up.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology has established a Software Technology Park at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The Department of Biotechnology has received a proposal for the establishment of Gujarat Research Institute for Biotechnology in conjunction with Gujarat Biotechnology Park.

Grants to Tamil Nadu by Ministry of Science and Technology

2258. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology to the Tamil Nadu Government during the last three years as grants-in-aid and the details of items, programmes, projects or any speical head under which the amount was sanctioned;

(b) whether the State Government has utilized these grants; and

(c) whether Government provide grants-in-aid to private Research and Development institutions also; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Financial support is also extended to private Research and Development institutions to implement Science and Technology releated activities under various schemes such as Science and Society, Science Engineering Research Council, National Council for Science and Technology Communication, National Science and Technology Management Information System, Extramural Research Scheme, Research and Development Scheme, etc.

Statement

Details of grant-in-aid provided to the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology by the Ministry of Science and Technology under its various programmes:

Sl.No.	Items/Projects/Programmes	Grants released (Rs. Lakhs)
	YEAR 1998-99	
1.	Core support to Council	17.75
2.	Science Popularisation Programmes	11.34
	YEAR 1999-2000	
1.	Core support of Council	23.25
2.	Science Popularisation Programmes	16.20
3.	Monitoring Surveillance and Control of important disease of poultry at Namakkal (Veterinary University)	3.20
4.	Study on S&T interventions for arresting ecological degradation in the southern agro-climatic zone (NGO-Centre for Ecology and Rural Development, Madurai)	1.00

Sl.No.	Items/Projects/Programmes	Grants released (Rs. Lakhs)
5.	Young Scientists Fellowships	2.23
	YEAR 2000-2001	
1.	Core support to Council	21.50
2.	Science Popularisation Programmes	14.29
3.	Young Scientists Fellowships	0.87

Decision of Cricket Control Board against particiption in tournaments

2259. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India has decided against participation in the World Cup, the Asia Cup, the ICC Knockout tournament and other such international sports events until Government issued concerete, uniform and clear policy guidelines for such participation;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the Board's decision; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not received any formal communication from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding its decision. However, the Government has clarified its policy to BCCI that under the prevailing circumstances, it would be inappropriate for the Indian team to participate in a two-nation tournament between India and Pakistan at present. The Government has also taken a decision not to play any matches at non-regular venues at least for a period of three years. India will thus continue to play Pakistan in multilateral tournaments at regular venues. However, the permission to play in a particular event will be given on receipt of the proposal on case-to-case basis after completing requisite formalities.